

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claim 5 is currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 6-8, 12 and 13 are currently being amended.

Claims 20 and 21 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding, canceling and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4 and 6-21 are now pending in this application.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the final Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,630,056 to Horvath et al. in view of EP Publication No. 0747803 to Meyers et al. This rejection is traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of dependent claim 5, now canceled, along with other features. In particular, claim 1 now recites “*a frequency divider which generates a sync signal by dividing a frequency of a predetermined clock signal and sends said generated sync signal to each of said reception interface sections and said data sender*”. Support for these features may be found, for example, in original claim 5 and on page 7, lines 22 to 27 of the specification.

Claim 1 now also recites that “*each of said reception interface sections receives data, which is divided by said data sender to data of a data length shorter than one period length of said sync signal supplied from said frequency divider, from said data sender according to*

said sync signal”, whereby support for these features may be found on page 10, lines 5 to 21, and on page 14, line 24 to page 15, line 11 of the specification.

Support for the amendments made to dependent claims 6, 7 and 12 may be found in original claims 5, 8 and 13, and on page 7, lines 22-27, page 10, lines 5 to 21, and page 14, line 24 to page 15, line 11 of the specification.

The invention as set forth in claim 1 recites that “each of said reception interface sections receives data, which is divided by said data sender to data of a data length shorter than one period length of said sync signal supplied from said frequency divider, from said data sender according to said sync signal”.

With the above-described features, in the present invention, for example, a data sender (a transmission interface section) divides transmission data to data of a data length shorter than one period length of the sync signal. The data sender transmits the divided data to the plurality of reception interface sections in synchronism with a sync signal. The plurality of reception interface sections receives the data transmitted from the data sender in synchronism with the sync signal.

According to the present invention, as exemplified by claim 1, for each period of a sync signal, each of the reception interface sections can receive same data from the data sender. Further, for example, each of the reception interface sections can receive the same data from the data sender without being influenced by the length of the transmission path and the drifting of the clock.

More specifically, as described in Figures 5D and 5E of the drawings, and page 15, lines 2 to 11 of the specification, even when a difference occurred in a timing that the plurality of reception interface sections receives data, the plurality of reception interface sections can receive the same data within the same period of the sync signal.

Therefore, according to the present invention, even when a communication error occurs while the same-data is processed in parallel, the identity of data is guaranteed, and further, a system may be designed without suffering any restriction on the lengths of communication lines.

On the other hand, the above-described features of the present invention as exemplified by claim 1 are not disclosed in the cited references, Horvath et al. and Meyers et al.

In particular, neither Horvath et al. nor Meyers et al. teaches or suggests

a frequency divider which generates a sync signal by dividing a frequency of a predetermined clock signal and sends said generated sync signal to each of said reception interface sections and said data sender, in which each of said reception interface sections receives data, which is divided by said data sender to data of a data length shorter than one period length of said sync signal supplied from said frequency divider, from said data sender according to said sync signal.

Thus, presently pending independent claim 1, as well as presently pending independent claims 6, 7 and 12 that recite similar features, are not taught or suggested by the combined teachings of Horvath et al. and Meyers et al.

New Claims:

New claims 20 and 21 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that provide an additional basis of patentability for those claims, beyond the reasons given above for their respective base claims.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action and the Advisory Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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